

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) A process of aggregating demands comprising the steps of:
validating incoming data in an electronic procurement system so as to ensure said data is
valid;

processing said incoming data in the electronic procurement system so as to extract an
aggregation rule and at least one demand;

processing said aggregation rule so as to apply said aggregation rule against said at least
one demand to create at least one group based upon said aggregation rule;

outputting output data indicative of said at least one group.

12. (Original) A process of aggregating demands as in claim 11, wherein said
incoming data is XML based.

13. (Original) A process of aggregating demands as in claim 12, wherein said
output data is XML based.

14. (Withdrawn) A process of generating purchase orders through the aggregation of
shopping baskets of demands comprising the steps of:
selecting said shopping baskets to be aggregated;
building groups of said shopping baskets based upon an aggregation rule;
assigning a unique group ID for each of said groups;

storing said group IDs; and
generating at least one purchase order based upon at least one of said group IDs.

15. (Withdrawn) A process of generating purchase orders as in claim 14, further comprising the step of determining said aggregation rule to be applied to said shopping baskets.

16. (Withdrawn) A process of generating purchase orders as in claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
determining if any attributes of said demands within said shopping baskets are missing;
and
if said attributes are missing, acquiring said attributes from another source.

17. (Currently Amended) A process of creating coalitions of demands comprising the steps of:
creating a process ID to identify a process through which said coalitions are to be created;
creating groups of demands in an electronic procurement system based upon an application of an aggregation rule;
determining if any attributes of said demands are missing;
if said attributes are missing, automatically acquiring said attributes from another source using the electronic procurement system;
assigning a unique group ID for each group created and assigning said process ID to said demands;
assigning said demands to said coalitions based upon said group IDs; and
once a predetermined time period has passed, closing said coalitions.

18. (Original) A process of creating coalitions of demands as in claim 17, further comprising the step of permitting manual addition of additional demands to said coalitions.

19. (Original) A process of creating coalitions of demands as in claim 17, further comprising the step of permitting coalitions to be manually closed prior to said predetermined time period passing.

Claims 20 and 21 (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) A process of grouping demands input into a system by a user into coalitions of demands comprising the steps of:

inputting demands into a demand aggregation application in an electronic procurement system;

analyzing said demands by applying an aggregation rule;

if said analysis of said demands indicates that said demands meet criteria of a plurality of coalitions, proposing said plurality of coalitions to said user;

permitting said user to assign said demands to a coalition of said plurality of coalitions;

if said analysis of said demands indicates that said demands do not meet criteria of any of said coalitions, automatically creating a new coalition to accommodate said demands.

23. (Original) A process of grouping demands as in claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

determining if any attributes of said demands are missing; and

if said attributes are missing, acquiring said attributes from another source.

24. (Currently amended) A process of aggregating demands according to an aggregation rule comprising the steps of:

collecting at an electronic procurement system demands from a plurality of sources;

determining if any attributes of said demands are missing;

if said attributes are missing, acquiring said attributes from another source;

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creating in the electronic procurement system groups of demands based upon an application of said aggregation rule; and
forwarding said demands to a demand aggregation application.

Claim 25 (Cancelled)